

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053098

LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. CHILE PEPPERS POPPER

CHILEAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VALDEZ CALLED IN AMBASSADOR POPPER MARCH 9 TO REGISTER DISPLEASURE WITH BRADY TYSON'S GENEVA STATEMENT WHICH HE TERMED AN INTERVENTION IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS. ACTING ON PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S INSTRUCTIONS, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT "REJECTING" THE COMMENTS.

VALDEZ ALSO QUESTIONED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI, WONDERING WHETHER THE LETTER'S REFERENCE  
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TO FREI AS "MR. PRESIDENT" STEMMED FROM A MISTAKEN IMPRESSION IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT FREI RETAINED SOME PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE CHILEAN REACTION WAS AS MILD AS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. OBVIOUSLY, THE PROMPT DISCLAIMERS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT COOLED THE

CHILEANS DOWN, ALTHOUGH SOME RANCOR REMAINS. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME OF PINOCHET'S SUBORDINATES HAVE BEEN

DOING THEIR BEST TO RESTRAIN HIS EMOTIONAL REACTIONS TO BOTH THE TYSON STATEMENT AND THE LETTER TO FREI. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO 1934, 3/9 (LIMDIS).

## 2. CHILEAN CABINET RESIGNS

IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S REQUEST, THE CHILEAN CABINET AND MANY SUBCABINET MINISTERS RESIGNED MARCH 9, PINOCHET REPORTEDLY WILL ANNOUNCE HIS NEW CABINET WITHIN 24 HOURS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRENT RUMORS ABOUT CABINET CHANGES, BUT THE TIMING OF THE ACTUAL RESIGNATIONS WAS HELD VERY CLOSELY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME CABINET CHANGES MAY BE LINKED TO POLICY DEPARTURES WHICH MIGHT BE ANNOUNCED ON THE JUNTA'S THREE AND ONE-HALF YEAR ANNIVERSARY, MARCH 11. (UNCLASSIFIED) SANTIAGO 1933, 3/9.

## 3. FRENCH BAR EC PRESIDENT FROM WESTERN SUMMIT

OUR MISSION AT EC BRUSSELS REPORTS THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL HAS BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE INCLUSION OF EC PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS IN THE MAY 7-8 WESTERN SUMMIT. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGUAD WAS THE ONLY HOLDOUT, MAINTAINING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL BODY TO BE REPRESENTED AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SUMMIT. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL REPORTEDLY SAID IT WAS "OUTRAGEOUS" THAT THE US COULD ACCEPT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION WHILE THE EC STATES COULD NOT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BRUSSELS 2251, 3/9.

## 4. SOVIETS REBUFF JAPANESE FISHING ZONE PROTEST

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYANSKY TOLD VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SATO MARCH 8 THE USSR REJECTED JAPAN'S PROTEST AGAINST INCLUDING THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES IN THE SOVIET EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE (EFZ). POLYANSKY SAID THAT NO TERRITORIAL DISPUTE EXISTED BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE USSR, AND IF JAPAN PERSISTED IN LINKING THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES DISPUTE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON ACCESS TO THE SOVIET EFZ, ACCESS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE. SATO REJECTED POLYANSKY'S ASSERTION THAT THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE WAS CLOSED, AND ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR LINKING THE TWO QUESTIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONSIDERS POLYANSKY'S TOUGH TALK PART OF THE SOFTENING-UP PROCESS PRIOR TO

FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPECTS THAT SOVIET NEGOTIATORS WILL STICK TO FISH DURING THE UPCOMING MOSCOW TALKS.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 3315, 3/9.

5. SAUDI ARABIA: SHORT FUSE ON IRANIAN "THREATS"

CROWN PRINCE FAHD HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR PORTER IF THE US HAS ANY WAY OF CONVEYING TO THE SHAH THAT SAUDI ARABIA "WILL NOT TOLERATE" WHAT IT SEES AS CONTINUING IRANIAN THREATS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. FAHD SAID HE HAD SENT AN ENVOY TO TEHRAN WITH TWO MESSAGES.

--STOP ATTACKING SAUDI AND UAE OIL POLICY.

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--IF IRAN HAS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, WE WILL OFFER YOU A LOAN.

THE AMBASSADOR ASKS IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY INFORMATION LIKELY TO CALM FAHD. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 1817, 3/8  
(LIMDIS)

6. LAOS: TROUBLES WITH GUERRILLAS

CONFLICT IN LAOS BETWEEN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (LPDR) FORCES AND RESISTANCE ELEMENTS APPEARS TO BE WIDESPREAD, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BANGKOK, WHICH REPORTS BATTALION-SIZE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AGAINST THE GUERRILLA TROOPS. THE RESISTANCE STRUGGLE IS CAUSING LPDR AUTHORITIES INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT ENLISTING THE SUPPORT OF VIETNAM. HOWEVER, LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE GUERRILLAS WRESTING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE COMMUNISTS ARE DIM. RESISTANCE ELEMENTS COMPOSED OF MEO TRIBESMEN AND LOWLAND LAO HAVE FAILED TO DEVELOP:

--ADEQUATE, RELIABLE SOURCES FOR SUPPLIES;

--EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP;

--LARGE-SCALE SUPPORT AMONG LOCAL POPULATION; AND

--POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SUPERIOR GOVERNMENT FORCES WILL OVERWHELM RESISTANCE GROUPS IN TIME, THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL

REMAIN AN IRRITANT IN LAO/THAI RELATIONS AS EACH SIDE  
GIVES SAFE HAVEN TO THE OTHER'S GUERRILLAS. (CONFIDENTIAL)  
BANGKOK 5108, 3/9.

, SECURITY COUNCIL CONCLUDES BENIN COUP ATTEMPT REAL  
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OUR MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS REPORTS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL VISITING MISSION TO BENIN HAS CONFIRMED PRESIDENT KEREKOU'S CONTENTION THAT A COUP ATTEMPT ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE IN CONTONOU ON JANUARY 16, 1977. THE VISITING MISSION CONCLUDES THAT:

--"THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THE STATE OF BENIN WAS  
SUBJECTED TO AGGRESSION."

--THE ATTACKING FORCE, MOSTLY WHITE, WAS TRAINED AT A  
BASE NEAR MARRAKESH, MOROCCO.

--THE ATTACKING FORCE WAS HIRED BY THE "FRONT DE  
LIBERATION ET DE REHABILITATION DU DAHOMEY."

--SIMILAR OPERATIONS COULD BE CONDUCTED ELSEWHERE  
AGAINST SMALL DEFENSELESS COUNTRIES FOR SIMILAR  
PURPOSES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) USUN 664, 3/8.  
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